

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

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44

ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 /026 W
----- 047648

O R 301218Z NOV 76
FM AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 9486
INFO AMEMBASSY ANKARA
AMEMBASSY ATHENS
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY NICOSIA

C O N F I D E N T I A L THE HAGUE 6597

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR, CY, EEC
SUBJ: CYPRUS PRINCIPLES

REF: STATE 280593, THE HAGUE 6355, 6386 AND 6456

1. FOLLOWING IS TEXT OF FOREIGN MINISTER VAN DER STOEL'S
RESPONSE ON BEHALF OF EC-9 TO SECRETARY'S LETTER OF NOV 15.
BEGIN TEXT: DEAR HENRY: I AM VERY GRATEFUL FOR YOUR LETTER
ON CYPRUS WHICH REACHED ME ON NOVEMBER 16 THROUGH THE
UNITED STATES EMBASSY IN THE HAGUE. AFTER HAVING CONSULTED MY
COLLEAGUES I SHOULD LIKE TO MAKE THE FOLLOWING REMARKS ON
BEHALF OF THE NINE.

WE CONTINUE TO ATTACH THE GREATEST IMPORTANCE TO ALL EFFORTS
AIMED AT RESTARTING THE INTERCOMMUNAL CONTACTS AND NEGOTIATIONS
UNDER THE AUSPICES OF SECRETARY GENERAL WALDHEIM.

ALTHOUGH WE CERTAINLY UNDERSTAND YOUR HESITATION ABOUT GOING
AHEAD AT THE PRESENT STAGE, NOTABLY IN VIEW OF THE ATTITUDE
TOWARDS THE US INITIATIVE ADOPTED BY SOME OF THE PARTIES
DIRECTLY INVOLVED IN THE CYPRUS CONFLICT, WE ARE NONETHELESS
OF THE OPINION THAT IT REMAINS A VALID AND PROMISING INITIA-
TIVE.

AS I THINK YOU WILL AGREE IT IS INDEED DIFFICULT TO SUGGEST
A SERIES OF POINTS OF DEPARTURE FOR A NEW ROUND OF NEGOTIATIONS
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WHICH WILL BE ACCEPTABLE TO ALL PARTIES CONCERNED.

FOR OUR PART HOWEVER WE HAVE ALWAYS THOUGHT THAT THE IMPORTANCE OF THE US INITIATIVE IS THAT IT OFFERS A PROMISING BASIS FOR BRINGING THE PARTIES TOGETHER.

AS TO THE QUESTION WHETHER IT WOULD UNDER THE CIRCUMSTANCES BE EXPEDIENT TO GO AHEAD WITH THE ACTION AS ENVISAGED, IT IS OUR JUDGEMENT THAT THE ANSWER ON THIS MATTER MAY DEPEND TO A LARGE EXTENT ON WHETHER THE NEW ADMINISTRATION WILL BE PREPARED TO TAKE THE SAME ACTIVE INTEREST IN THE CYPRUS PROBLEM AS THE PRESENT US GOVERNMENT.

IF THIS IS INDEED THE CASE, THE NINE SUGGEST HAT THE PARTIES CONCERNED BE INFORMED ACCORDINGLY, FOR IN SUCH A SITUATION THERE WOULD BE NO REASON FOR POSTPONING THE ACTION AS ORIGINALLY PLANNED.

I CAN ASSURE YOU THAT THE NINE REMAIN WILLING TO SUPPORT THE US INITIATIVE, BUT AT THE SAME TIME THEY ARE AWARE OF THE URGENT NEED OF FINDING A PEACEFUL SOLUTION AND OF AVOIDING TOO LONG A PERIOD OF STAGNATION IN THE INTERCOMMUNAL CONTACTS AND NEGOTIATIONS. IF THE NEED ARISES, THE NINE WOULD NOT HESITATE TO AVAIL THEMSELVES OF ANY OPPORTUNITY TO FURTHER THESE OBJECTIVES. WARMEST REGARDS, MAX VAN DER STOEL

END TEXT

2. ORIGINAL LETTER BEING POUCHED.

3. MFA POLITICAL DIRECTOR RUTTEN EXPLAINED TO DCM THAT IF WASHINGTON'S DECISION WERE TO PROCEED EC-9 WOULD EXPECT DISCUSSIONS TO TAKE PLACE ON BASIS OF PRINCIPLES AS DRAFTED.

ON OTHER HAND, IF WASHINGTON UNDER PRESENT CIRCUMSTANCES SAW NO POSSIBILITY OF TAKING INITIATIVE BECAUSE OF UNCERTAINTY CONCERNING POLICY OF NEW ADMINISTRATION OR EVEN ITS EXPRESS UNWILLINGNESS TO ENDORSE PRINCIPLES IN THEIR PRESENT FORM, NEW SITUATION WOULD ARISE IN WHICH EC-9 WOULD CONSIDER POSSIBILITY OF INITIATIVE OF THEIR OWN. RUTEN EMPHASIZED THAT IN THIS CASE EC-9 ATTITUDE WOULD DEPEND UPON WASHINGTON REACTION TO VAN DER STOEL LETTER. HE HOPED OUR RESPONSE WOULD BE RAPID.

MCCLOSKEY

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